

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 DPW-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01

/130 W

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P R 271120Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9666

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPCHIEF JUSMAG UDORN THAILAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5041

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LA

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN BY PATHET LAO
IN SHOOTING INCIDENT

REF: VIENTIANE 5018

1. LAST NIGHT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS GIBSON CASE WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE KHAMKING SOUVANLASY, TOGETHER WITH SOUKAN VILAYSARN, VIENTIANE REPRESENTATIVE ON JCCIA. THEY ADVISED OUR GOING TO SEE THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, WHO LEGALLY WOULD HAVE JURISDICTION. I DID SO THIS AFTERNOON WITH CONSUL MURPHY. PROSECUTOR SUTHIN SANGKAVONG, WHO IS YOUNG AND ALERT, KNEW THE ESSENTIAL FACTS OF THE CASE AND UNDERSTOOD THAT VIENTIANE SIDE POLICE JUDGED THAT GIBSON HAD ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE. HE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT GIBSON WAS BEING HELD CONTRARY TO LAO LAW AND SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO.

2. CONSUL MURPHY AGAIN VISITED GIBSON WHO IS TRYING
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TO RENEW HIS LAO RESIDENCE PERMIT THROUGH FRIENDS.

HE HAS NOT BEEN QUESTIONED FURTHER BY PATHET LAO. MURPHY ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LAO NATIONAL POLICE WHO SUGGESTED EMBASSY WRITE A LETTER TO SOUKAN, WITH COPIES TO MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERIOR, REQUESTING GIBSON'S RELEASE.

3. LOCAL REPORTERS HAVE TOLD US THEY CONSIDER THE GIBSON CASE NOT A MAJOR INCIDENT BUT THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING REQUESTS FROM REGIONAL BUREAUS TO PURSUE IT BECAUSE OF THE WILDLY DISTORTED PATHET LAO ACCOUNTS BROADCAST ON THE RADIO. SO FAR ONLY ACCOUNT PUBLISHED WAS AFP ITEM IN BANGKOK POST WHICH QUOTED ONLY PATHET LAO SOURCES. FBIS 261442Z JUNE REPORTS NEW RADIO PATHET LAO BROADCAST COVERING ESSENTIALLY SAME DISTORTION OF FACTS AS ORIGINAL BROADCAST BUT ADDING NEW POINT THAT THIS FIRST TIME LEGAL ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST AN AMERICAN IN LAOS AND THAT THIS WAS WIDELY COMMENTED ON.

4. I HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH MINFORAFF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AT 4 PM FRIDAY, JUNE 28. I PROPOSE WE THEN WAIT FEW DAYS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OUR EFFORTS HAVE BORNE FRUIT. SINCE AMBASSADOR RETURNING JULY 3, IT MAY BE WE CAN WAIT AND IF NECESSARY LET HIM TAKE UP MATTER WITH SOUVANNA AT 4TH OF JULY RECEPTION.
CHAPMAN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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